

Introduction of the faculty and of the new students.

+++++

I'd like to call your attention to one of my favorite chs. in the Bible. I'm not going to read a great deal of this ch. I wish I could discuss the whole ch. with you. I'm going to read Ephesians 4:7-16. I'm going to read it to you from the NIV because I think you will understand what every verse means. If I read it in the KJV it would make an excellent reminder of many beautiful words of which you will understand a lot but some of which you probably would not understand.

I am amazed in reading the NIV to find a passage after passage that I've said over and over for 50 years and loved, but never really understood what they meant, and never stopped to realize I did not understand. We read for instance "of His fullness have all we received and grace for grace." I love that verse but I never stopped to think that I had no idea what it meant-- "grace for grace." I knew, of course, it meant we have received of his fullness, but "grace for grace." His grace for our grace? What is it? The NIV says "one blessing after another" and I'm sure that's what it means.

I'll read then vv. 7-16 in this wonderful chapter. (Reading text from NIV) . . .

" Speaking the truth in love . . ." notice the contrast there. We don't want to be blown here and there by every wind of teaching and the cunning craftiness of men, but we are to speak the truth in love."

We want to recognize the facts of unbelief, the fact of the terrible activity of Satan who is trying to destroy the Word of God, but we should speak the Word of God in love, never returning reviling for reviling.

I'd like to call your attention to three aspects of many truths in these verses. Starting in v. 7, "to each of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." We are here because Jesus Christ has reached out with His love, to reach us who were lost in sin. There is not a man here who is not a sinner. There is not a man on our faculty who is not a sinner. There is not a man here in our student body or in our faculty who deserves anything good at the hand of God. Jesus gave His life on calvary's cross. He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

How we can so easily see sin in the other person. How easy it is to see how others are sinful. You don't do much good by pointing out their sin. But you do a lot of good by looking at your own sin. And realizing that Jesus died for your sin, if you have sincerely believed on him for salvation. That he died for your sins and you can never repay Him, with anything you can do for all he has done in saving you from eternal destruction. To realize that you still are a sinner and you are not in a position to put yourself up in judgment upon others. But help then in anyway you can. If you can give a nice word to somebody